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cont

to a conventional transmission 21, while the second member 12 is coupled, by the use of a conventional flange 22, to a conventional differential 23. The torque is communicated to the first member 16 and then, by use of the intermeshed splined portions 18, 14 of the first and second members 16, 12, is communicated to the second member 12. The cooperating splined portions 18, 14 allow the second member 12 to dynamically move along the longitudinal axis of symmetry 32 of the driveshaft 10 in response to changes in the distance between the transmission 21 and the differential 23, in a known manner.

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please replace claims 1 and 22-25 with the following claims:

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1. (Amended) A combination of a seal and a shaft for communicating torque in a vehicle, comprising:

a shaft including first and second members each having splined portions, said second member being telescopically resident within said first member, said splined portion of said first member cooperating with said splined portion of said second member thereby allowing said first and second members to cooperatively form the shaft; and

a seal including a first splined inner-portion having a first diameter, and a second splined inner-portion having a second diameter, wherein said first diameter of said first splined inner-portion of said seal is larger than said second diameter of said second splined inner-portion of said seal, at least a part of the splined portion of said first member is resident within said first splined inner-portion of said seal, and at least a part of the splined portion of said second member is telescopically resident within said second splined inner-portion of said seal.

A3 Sub 85>22. (Amended) A method of attaching a seal to a shaft comprising:

providing a shaft comprising first and second members each having splined portions, said second member being telescopically resident within said first member, said splined portion of said first member cooperating with said splined portion of said second member thereby allowing said first and second members to cooperatively form the shaft;

providing a seal comprising a first splined-inner portion having a first diameter, and a second splined-inner portion having a second diameter, wherein said first diameter of said first splined inner-portion is larger than said second diameter of said second splined inner-portion;

fitting the first splined inner-portion of said seal around at least a part of the splined portion of said first member, and

fitting the second splined inner-portion of said seal around at least a part of the splined portion of said second member.

Sub 62>23. (Amended) The invention of claim 22 wherein said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal are fit to said respective splined portions of said first and second members of said shaft utilizing initial preload force.

Sub 86>24. (Amended) The invention of claim 22 further comprising a spring within at least one of said first and second splined inner-portions of said seal, said spring providing preload force against at least one of said respective splined portions of said first and second members of said shaft.